

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

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MICHAEL GOLDBLATT,

Petitioner,

v.

DAVID E. ORTIZ,

Respondent.

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Civ. No. 20-19987 (NLH)

OPINION

APPEARANCES:

Michael Goldblatt  
71046-050  
FCI Bennettsville  
Federal Correctional Institution  
P.O. Box 52020  
Bennettsville, SC 29512

Petitioner Pro se

Philip R. Sellinger, United States Attorney  
Peter Gregory Vizcarrondo, Assistant United States Attorney  
Office Of the U.S. Attorney  
District Of New Jersey  
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Camden, NJ 08101

Attorneys for Respondent

HILLMAN, District Judge

Petitioner Michael Goldblatt pled guilty in the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey to possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1), and possession of marijuana with intent to distribute, 21 §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(D). Judgment of Conviction,

United States v. Goldblatt, No. 2:18-cr-00345, (D.N.J. Oct. 16, 2018) (ECF No. 30). The Honorable Susan D. Wigenton, D.N.J., sentenced Petitioner to 60 months followed by a three-year term of supervised release. Id.

On December 21, 2020, Petitioner filed a petition for writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 challenging the Bureau of Prisons' ("BOP") refusal to apply earned time credits to his sentence under the First Step Act of 2018 ("FSA"). ECF No. 1. The United States opposed the petition. ECF No. 8. At the time, the BOP calculated Petitioner's projected release date to be November 19, 2022. ECF No. 8-4 at 7.

On January 13, 2022, the BOP finalized a new rule codifying the BOP's procedures regarding the earning and application of time credits under the FSA. FSA Time Credits, 87 FR 2705-01, codified at 28 C.F.R. § 523.40 et. seq. The Court ordered the United States to submit a supplemental brief with the effect this new rule had on Petitioner's claim, if any. ECF No. 14. Respondent filed its supplement on May 2, 2022, which included a declaration from BOP Senior Attorney Advisor Cyntrena Cross-Peart. Declaration of Cyntrena Cross-Peart ("Cross-Peart Dec."), ECF No. 16-1.

"The First Step Act of 2018 (FSA) provides eligible inmates the opportunity to earn 10 or 15 days of time credits for every 30 days of successful participation in Evidence Based Recidivism

Reduction Programs (EBRR programs) and Productive Activities (PAs).” Id. ¶ 3 (footnotes omitted). “The earned credits, known as First Step Act Time Credits (FSA TCs), can be applied toward prerelease custody (i.e. transfer to a Residential Reentry Center (RRC) or home confinement for service of a portion of the inmate’s sentence) or early transfer to supervised release (i.e., early satisfaction of the inmate’s term of imprisonment) . . . .” Id. ¶ 5 (citing 18 U.S.C. §§ 3624(g), 3632(d)(4)(C)). “[U]nder the final rule, inmates will be assigned to EBRR programs and PAs based on an individualized risk and needs assessment. An eligible inmate may earn FSA TCs for programming and activities in which he or she participated from December 21, 2018 until January 14, 2020.” Id. ¶ 15 (citing 28 C.F.R. §§ 523.40(b), 523.42(b)).

On January 11, 2022, the BOP awarded eligible inmates FSA credit “retroactively to the date of enactment of the FSA, December 21, 2018.” Id. ¶ 17. “This retroactivity means that, on January 11, 2022, BOP staff immediately began the process of either advancing the RRC or home confinement date or preparing the RRC or home confinement referrals for certain eligible prisoners.” Id. The BOP recalculated Petitioner’s credits as part of the implementation process, and “[a]s a result, Goldblatt is no longer in BOP custody but is serving his term of supervised release” as of April 22, 2022. ECF No. 16 at 1. See

also ECF No. 16-2; Inmate Locator, available at  
<https://www.bop.gov/inmateloc/#> (last visited May 17, 2022).  
The United States asks the Court to dismiss the § 2241 petition  
as moot. ECF No. 16 at 2.

Petitioner has received the relief he requested from the  
Court: the application of FSA credits and recalculation of his  
sentence. The Court cannot grant him further relief under §  
2241 because the supervised release statute, 18 U.S.C. § 3624,  
does not permit a court to credit a supervised release term with  
a period of excess prison time. United States v. Johnson, 529  
U.S. 53 (2000). Accord DeFoy v. McCullough, 393 F.3d 439, 442  
n.3 (3d Cir. 2005) (“[T]he length of a term of supervised  
release cannot be reduced ‘by reason of excess time served in  
prison.’” (quoting Johnson)). Accordingly, the § 2241 petition  
is moot and will be dismissed.

An appropriate order will be entered.

Dated: May 24, 2022  
At Camden, New Jersey

s/ Noel L. Hillman  
NOEL L. HILLMAN, U.S.D.J.